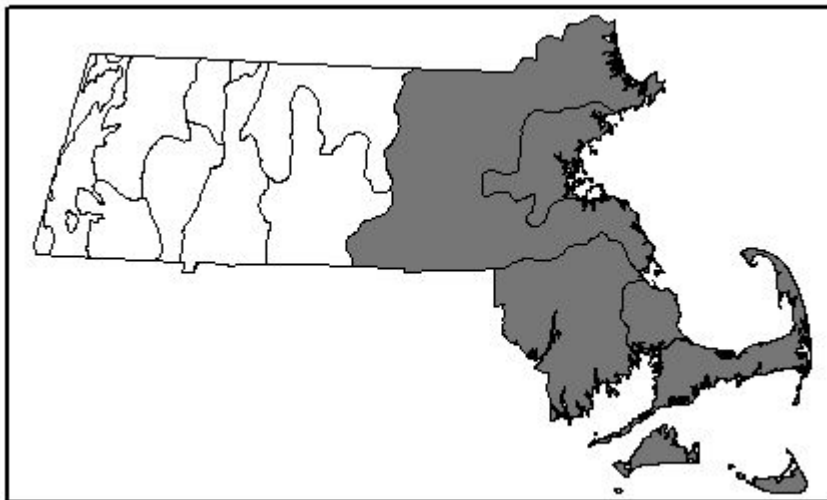


Community Name: MARITIME SHRUBLAND COMMUNITY

Community Code: CT2A4A1000

SRANK: S3



Concept: Shrub community; dominated by patches of dense shrubs with scattered more open areas of low growth or bare ground.

Environmental Setting: Coastal, within the area receiving storm salt spray, but out of the normal range of daily salt spray. Occurs on rocky headlands or behind dunes in protected areas of barrier beaches.

Vegetation Description: Often dense patches of shrub, with various species dominating in different areas. Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*), or red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) areas are often distinctive. Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), beach plum (*Prunus maritima*), chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), low bush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), and bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) may be abundant. Catbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*) and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) often cover other plants or grow in dense patches on their own.

Associations: Two variants: rocky headlands and on dunes, need to be field checked to see how different they are from each other.

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: Shrub thickets provide nesting areas for Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*), Northern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), and Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*). Maritime shrublands are heavily used during fall migrations for cover and forage -- many of the plants have fruit attractive to migrants. White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) maintain large populations in shrubland habitats. In such shrub areas, white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) are also very abundant, and in the openings meadow voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) are common. Eastern moles (*Scalopus aquaticus*) have an affinity to the sand substrate in the southern part of the state. Long-tailed weasels (*Mustela frenata*) occur in the grass dominated areas where they hunt meadow voles. Eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*) occur in sandy, open areas of shrubland communities areas.

Associated Rare Plants:

NONE KNOWN

Associated Rare Animals:

CIRCUS CYANEUS	NORTHERN HARRIER	T
METARRANTHIS PILOSARIA	COASTAL SWAMP METARRANTHIS	SC

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Examples with Public Access:	Halibut Point State Park, Rockport; Nomans Land Island; Sandy Neck, Barnstable;; Plum Island, Parker River NWR, Newbury. In the towns of Nantucket, Aquinnah, and Gosnold.		
Threats:	Invasive exotics in many occurrences - shrubby honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>) is invasive in many of the locations; barberry (<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>), buckthorn (<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>), and Japanese black pine (<i>Pinus thunbergiana</i>) are locally dense.		
Management Needs:	Removal of invasive exotics from otherwise exemplary occurrences.		
Synonyms			
USNVC/TNC:	Includes: Prunus serotina - Amelanchier canadensis - Quercus spp. Shrubland Alliance -- Prunus serotina - Rhus typhina / Cakile edentula Shrubland [CEGL006399]; Myrica pensylvanica - (Prunus maritima) Shrubland Alliance -- Myrica pensylvanica- Rosa rugosa Shrubland [CEGL006295]; Prunus serotina - Amelanchier canadensis - Quercus spp. Shrubland Alliance -- Amelanchier canadensis - Viburnum spp. - Myrica pensylvanica Shrubland [CEGL006379]; Toxicodendron radicans vine- Shrubland Alliance -- Smilax glauca - Toxicodendron radicans Vine - Shrubland [CEGL003886]; Prunus serotina - Amelanchier canadensis - Quercus spp. Shrubland Alliance -- Prunus serotina - Sassafras albidum - Amelanchier canadensis / Smilax rotundifolia Shrubland [CEGL006145].		
MA (old name):	SNE COASTAL ROCKY HEADLAND COMMUNITY		
ME:	2001 – Rose – Bayberry Maritime Shrubland. 1991 - Includes Maritime Open Headland Community; and Maritime Shrubland Community; part of Sand Dune Community.		
NH:	Includes: Maritime Shrubland / barren and Coastal rocky headland; Prunus serotina - Pinus rigida / Amelanchier / Parthenocissus - Toxicodendron Forest/ Woodland.		
VT:	Not applicable.		
NY:	Maritime shrubland; includes parts of Successional maritime forest.		
CT:	Includes parts of: Quercus coccinea- Sassafras albidum Woodlands; and Myrica pensylvanica- Prunus maritima Shrublands.		
RI:	Includes: Maritime dune - c. dune shrubland; Maritime Shrubland.		
Weatherbee:	Not applicable		
Author:	P. Swain	Date:	7/1/99